

The Desire for “Crossing the Border”

– Research into “Johnny’s” Fans in Mainland China –

MA Jie

Graduate School of Science for Human Services, Ritsumeikan University

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In this research, the objects of study are “Johnny’s” fans born in and currently living in Mainland China. Chinese “Johnny’s” fans support the “Johnny’s” idols from Japan through various means—even though the political situation between China and Japan is strained. According to the results of questionnaires and personal interviews, it can be summarized that there is a commonality in the behavior patterns among Chinese “Johnny’s” fans. Usually, “Johnny’s” fans have something in common that causes them to be attracted to one certain idol or idol group. In that way, they begin to take part in regular activities involving the idols that they like. Such activities have brought these fans together, and the impact of these activities strengthened the attractiveness of certain idols or idol groups. The activities undertaken by the fans made it possible for the fans to gain more information about Japan. Therefore, against the backdrop of Sino-Japanese relations, impressions regarding Japan did improve. For fans, idols are not just a brand, but are half-veiled and human beings who work hard, in order to satisfy their fans. As a result, for Chinese “Johnny’s” fans, even if they are caught in the middle of complex political and national problems, in addition to the funds necessary for their hobby, they are still looking to pursue their love for “Johnny’s” idols despite the ideological distance between the two countries.